THE NATURE CONSERVANCY NEWS

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COVER PHOTO: Tree in winter sunlight, by Susan Bournique.
INSIDE COVER PHOTO: Frozen creek, by Barbara Dodge.

LAND CONSERVATION THROUGH PRIVATE ACTION

The Nature Conservancy is a national conservation organization, receiving its support from the public, whose objective is to preserve and protect ecologically and environmentally significant land and the diversity of life it supports.

To achieve this goal, the Conservancy purchases lands using its revolving fund which is then replenished through fund raising; accepts gifts of land; retains and provides stewardship for 60% of all projects; works with local, state, and federal governments to identify and protect important natural areas and acquires and manages land in advance of government agencies' ability to do so.

Some 878,687 acres of forests, swamps, marshes, prairies, mountains, beaches, and islands in 1,516 projects throughout the United States have been saved from destruction by the Conservancy since the acquisition of its first preserve in 1954.

A member-governed non-profit organization, The Nature Conservancy was incorporated in 1951 in the District of Columbia for scientific and educational purposes.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS

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$500

Members receive the *News*.
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The Nature Conservancy

Twenty-Fifth Anniversary

Almost 25 years ago, on October 22, 1951, The Nature Conservancy was officially established.

True, our origins could be traced still farther back—to 1950, when our founders took The Nature Conservancy name; to 1946, when the predecessor organization, the Ecologists Union, was formed; or even to 1917, when the Committee for the Preservation of Natural Conditions of the Ecological Society of America came into being.

But it was on the October date in 1951 that the Conservancy was incorporated, here in Washington, D.C., and that seems the most fitting anniversary.

Our purpose, then as now, was to identify and preserve our country's remaining natural lands. We had only 300 members in those days, and it was to be three years before they brought off the Conservancy's first full-fledged acquisition project—at the beautiful Mianus River Gorge. But the foundations they laid were well-designed and strong; and the Conservancy's achievement and its influence grew rapidly in the years which followed.

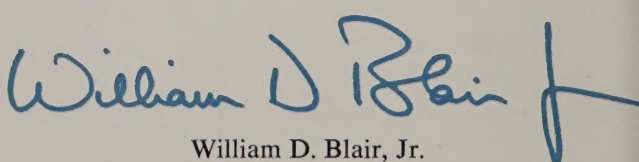
Today, the 300 members have become 25,000. Conservancy volunteers provide responsible management for more than 600 Conservancy preserves, many of them built up through multiple acquisitions. All told, the Conservancy has conducted more than 1,500 acquisition projects involving more than 800,000 acres of natural land. Its impact is nationally felt, through land conservation programs of federal and state government which we have inspired or assisted, as well as through wholly private efforts; and we are beginning to have an international impact among our neighbor nations as well.

This is progress worth remembering, in our anniversary year, and with much pride. But we cannot pause too long, looking back. Irreplaceable natural land is being cut over, drained, flooded or paved, every day. Rare life forms are disappearing. There is a great deal of priceless land and life to be protected and preserved now, before it is too late. And this will require increased effort on a widening front—in ecological research, in innovative private enterprise, in government and international relations, and in public education in the broadest sense, as well as directly in acquisition and management.

If these efforts are to succeed—if the Conservancy is to continue to play the vital role for which it is increasingly recognized—we are going to have to broaden our base of support. We will need still more new ideas, more new talents and energies, more public understanding, more money: in a word, more members. You can help to accelerate our membership growth. Every Conservancy member knows people who support our purposes—and would support the Conservancy, if they knew more about it. Every member of the Conservancy can enroll at least one new member during 1976. There could be no greater guarantee of our future success.

Nor could the Conservancy give the nation a finer birthday present, in our national Bicentennial year, than the enlarged contribution to the protection of our natural inheritance which a strengthened Conservancy membership will make possible.

I am confident 1976 is going to be our finest year yet. Thank you for all you have done and are doing to make The Nature Conservancy the moving force that it has become in just twenty-five years. Looking back with admiration, and looking ahead with high expectations, I wish you a very Happy Anniversary this year.



William D. Blair, Jr.
Chairman of the Board

The Conservancy's efforts to protect important natural areas often depend on local project fundraising. Given the ability to purchase land quickly through loans from the Conservancy's Project Revolving Fund, Conservancy chapters, committees and affiliates subsequently undertake fundraising campaigns to repay the loans and ensure the protection of areas that would otherwise be lost.

Fundraising campaigns are underway for ten of the projects listed below: Ramsey Canyon, Arizona; Griswold Point, Connecticut; Boone County Cliffs, Kentucky; Choptank Wetlands, Maryland; Bluestem Prairie, Philip J. Englund Ecotone Preserve, and MacDougall Homestead in Minnesota; Barberville Falls, New York; Price Hill Preserve, Ohio; and Goose Island, Washington. Please help by supporting these important projects.

Arizona

RAMSEY CANYON (Cochise County). A bequest of the late Dr. N. C. Bledsoe, the 280-acre property comprises a deep, winding gorge in the Huachuca Mountain range. The canyon, sheltered by steep hillsides, remains temperate and moist in contrast to the surrounding desert and thus forms a delicate and exceptionally diverse environment. The area, a National Natural Landmark, is well known among birdwatchers for its many rare and peripheral birds and its fifteen species of hummingbirds. A $180,000 fundraising campaign is underway by the Western Regional Office to purchase Mile Hi Ranch, a 20-acre property adjoining Ramsey Canyon, and to provide funds for caring for the property.

California

BOUVERIE FLOWER PRESERVE—Addition—(Sonoma County). The 5-acre tract is a flat meadow with a lush growth of wildflowers which is typical of Sonoma County meadowlands. Funds for the purchase of the area have been provided by Mr. David Bouverie, donor of the original acreage in the Bouverie Flower Preserve. The property will be given to the Sonoma County Park and Recreation Department for management.

RIVERSIDE COUNTY/JOSHUA TREE (Riverside County). Through a series of land purchases and exchanges, the Conservancy is helping Riverside County to acquire important additions to its park system, while assisting the National Park Service in securing inholdings in Joshua Tree National Monument.

Connecticut

BURNHAM BROOK—Addition—(East Haddam Township). The 20-acre tract, which consists of mixed deciduous woodland dominated by red oak, serves as buffer to the existing 99-acre preserve. A small portion of Burnham Brook crosses the eastern edge of the property. Given by Gertrude and Edith Lefebvre in memory of Leland B. Durer and Ethel Ely Battison, the preserve is to be managed by the Connecticut Chapter.

GRISWOLD POINT (Old Lyme Township). A one-half interest in 21 acres on Connecticut's coast was purchased by the Connecticut Chapter; the first one-half interest in the property was a 1974 gift of Dr. Matthew Griswold. The point is considered to be the state's finest barrier beach. Highly productive tidal mudflats adjoin the beach on both the seaward and inland sides. Management of the area is the responsibility of the Connecticut Chapter, and a fundraising campaign for $228,500 is underway.

HOLL PROPERTY (Bolten Township). The 28-acre tract is bounded on the west by Bolten Lake and contains a small intermittent stream. Approximately three-quarters of the property is reverting pastureland, and a dense growth of hardwoods covers about 6 acres. Predominant tree species are red maple and poplar. The tract will be transferred to the Town of Bolten for use as a park.

ROCK SPRINGS WILDLIFE REFUGE—Addition—(Scotland Township). The 35-acre tract lies adjacent to the existing 332-acre preserve which contains oak-hickory-maple forest on rugged, hilly terrain. A gift of Mr. David O. Shoemaker, the property is managed by the Connecticut Chapter.

Florida

BIG CYPRESS SWAMP — Addition — (Collier County). 161 acres were purchased by the Conservancy for the National Park Service as an addition to the Big Cypress National Fresh Water Reserve. The area provides important feeding, nesting, and wintering areas—as well as resting places—for birds migrating to and from South and Central America. The swamp's sawgrass prairie, cypress hammocks, and shallow flowing water also provide habitat for alligator, bald eagle, deer, osprey, and panther. The land will be leased or transferred to the Department of the Interior for administration by the National Park Service.

JANET BUTTERFIELD BROOKS PRESERVE (Hernando County). A gift of Mrs. Janet Butterfield Brooks, the 80-acre preserve consists of a mixture of high hammock, longleaf pine and turkey oak uplands. The property, crossed by a small stream, provides habitat for fox, fox squirrel, cat squirrel, bobcat, raccoon, opossum, and armadillo. Management of the area will be the responsibility of the Florida Chapter.

WEST SHORE — Payson Addition — (Martin County). Donated by Mrs. Joan Payson, the 25-acre property is an inholding in the existing Hobe Sound National Wildlife Refuge. Endangered or threatened species which may occasionally use the area include bald eagle, osprey, green loggerhead turtle, and manatee. The property has been transferred to the Department of the Interior for administration by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Idaho

PANTHER CREEK PRESERVE (Lemhi County). A key inholding in Salmon National Forest, the 140-acre tract serves as a range for elk, moose, and other species. The creek itself, which flows through the property, is a major branch of the Salmon River. The area is scheduled for transfer to the U.S. Forest Service for inclusion in Salmon National Forest.

Illinois

TWIN CULVERT CAVE (Pike County). Five species of bats, including the endangered gray bat, use the cave during annual migrations. The surrounding 5-acre tract consists of deciduous forest mixed with prairie species. Western Illinois University will be responsible for management of the area.

Indiana

PORTLAND ARCH — Addition — (Fountain County). A gift of Mrs. Ellen Tharaldson, the 5-acre tract consists of relatively undisturbed oak-hickory woodland. The addition is a crucial buffer for Portland Arch, a National Natural Landmark and State Nature Reserve. The property has been conveyed to the state for management by the Division of Nature Preserves, Department of Natural Resources.

Kentucky

BOONE COUNTY CLIFFS (Boone County). The 46-acre tract features conglomerate cliffs resulting from glacial outwash with small, cavelike cliff overhangs. One of the few glacial outwash remnants in Kentucky, the area will provide local colleges and high schools with an opportunity for biological and geological field trips. The Conservancy's new Kentucky Chapter will manage the pre-

serve and is currently conducting a $25,000 fund-raising campaign to purchase the area.

Maine

DYER NECK SANCTUARY (Lincoln County). The 50-acre property is a neck of forest land which drops off to marshland on either side. It is bordered on the west by Dyer Long Pond and by Flood Pond and Musquash Pond on the east. The forest of beech, hemlock, and pine lies on rough terrain with cliffs and ledges and other rock formations. The marsh contains an active beaver colony. The preserve, a gift of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Saltonstall, Jr., will be managed by the Maine Chapter.

Maryland

CHOPTANK WETLANDS (Caroline County). Considered a prime wetland, the 100-acre area provides habitat for the endangered Delmarva fox squirrel, in addition to osprey, otter, crab, anadromous fish, striped bass, white shad and hickory shad. The area has been identified as #33 on the Chesapeake Bay Inventory. A $45,000 fund-raising effort will be the first of the newly formed Maryland Chapter. Management of the area will be the responsibility of the Mid-Atlantic Representative.

SUGARLOAF MOUNTAIN — Additions — (Frederick County). In cooperation with the state of Maryland, the Conservancy purchased two tracts for inclusion in the Monocacy Natural Resource Area. A 384-acre parcel fronts on the Monocacy River for two miles, and lies directly across the river from lands already acquired by the Conservancy for the state. The other tract, 22 acres, lies at the base of Sugarloaf Mountain. Both properties consist of rolling pastureland and hardwood forest. With the purchase of these tracts, the lands acquired by the Conservancy at Sugarloaf Mountain total 1,380 acres.

Michigan

BARKER CREEK PRESERVE (Kalkaska County). In a cooperative effort with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Conservancy purchased the 149-acre tract. Predominantly grassland along the north of the property, with 40 acres of northern hardwoods on the southern portion, the area rises from damp, almost marshy, level land in the north to steep hills to the south. Barker Creek Preserve will be transferred to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and managed by its wildlife division.

BIG BASS LAKE (Schoolcraft County). An area of approximately 70 acres, the property contains shoreline along Big Bass Lake and is crucial in blocking in Forest Service ownership in the area. Mammals include white-tailed deer, porcupine, raccoon, chipmunk, bobcat, squirrel, and coyote. The land and the surrounding area show results

of glacier action in the form of moraines and outwash areas. The property will be held for sale to the U.S. Forest Service and will become an undeveloped recreation area within Hiawatha National Forest.

HOLLOWAY RESERVOIR—Additions—(Genesee and Lapeer Counties). Four tracts totalling about 9 acres were purchased by the Conservancy for inclusion in Holloway Reservoir. The property's chief advantage is that it has water frontage and contains a blend of northern and southern tree species. An additional 100-acre tract lies along the Flint River and forms a corridor between Holloway Reservoir and the Genesee County Recreational Area.

OTTAWA NATIONAL FOREST—Additions—(Houghton and Gogebic Counties). In cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service, the Conservancy purchased 4,320 acres within the Sturgeon River Special Study Area. The property contains a large cedar swamp and a number of streams, river gorges, small lakes, and beaver ponds. Deer, grouse, and most other animals common to northern Michigan inhabit the area. Another tract of 40 acres, part of the Sylvania National Recreational Area, was also purchased by the Conservancy. Both tracts will be transferred to the U.S. Forest Service for inclusion in Ottawa National Forest.

Minnesota

BLUESTEM PRAIRIE — Addition — Minnesota Prairie Chicken Preserve System (Clay County). The 160-acre tract lies along the ancient beachline of glacial Lake Agassiz and adjoins Bluestem Prairie to the south, bringing the total acreage of the preserve to 880. It supports a high degree of species diversity and provides crucial habitat for the threatened greater prairie chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido pinnatus*). A $24,000 fund-raising effort is being conducted by the Conservancy's Minnesota Chapter. Management of the property will be the responsibility of the Minnesota Chapter with the assistance of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

DAY LAKE (Itacca County). The 10-acre inholding in Chippewa National Forest contains 1,400 feet of shoreline on Day Lake. The property, forested in typical north central Minnesota hardwoods, is to be transferred to the U.S. Forest Service for inclusion in Chippewa National Forest.

PHILIP J. ENGLUND ECOTONE PRESERVE (Benton County). An extremely complex mosaic of prairie and woodland, the 160-acre preserve represents a prairie ecotone. Vegetation types include dry prairie, mesic prairie, wet prairie, sedge meadow, shrub-carr, willow-aspen, aspen, and pin oak woods. A $32,000 fundraising campaign has been launched by the Minnesota Chapter.

GRACE NATURE PRESERVE — Addition — (Goodhue County). The 2-acre gift lies along the Zumbro River and consists of flat, wooded bottomland. The tract supports the state's only known endemic flowering species, the threatened Minnesota trout lily (*Erythronium propullans*). The preserve, managed by the Minnesota Chapter, now totals 13 acres.

LAKE ALEXANDER NATURAL AREA — Nena S. Anderson Addition—(Morrison County). With funds provided by the Sarah Maud Sivertsen Trust Fund, the Minnesota Chapter purchased 362 acres fronting on Lake Alexander. The property's glacial topography includes a parallel series of kettle lakes and marshes. Beaver, ruffed grouse, and white-tailed deer inhabit the area. The preserve, to be managed by the Minnesota Chapter, now totals 602 acres.

MacDOUGALL HOMESTEAD — Addition — (Morrison County). A vital buffer zone to the original preserve, the 113-acre addition contains a 6-acre stand of old-growth white pines. A prairie restoration project is planned for the rest of the area, which consists primarily of cropland. A $27,000 fundraising effort is being conducted by the Minnesota Chapter. The Chapter will manage the preserve, now comprising 215 acres.

Mississippi

MISSISSIPPI SANDHILL CRANE SANCTUARY—Addition—(Jackson County). 20 acres of coastal plain consisting of pine savannahs and lower woodland swamps were purchased in cooperation with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The property provides habitat for the endangered Mississippi sandhill crane (*Grus canadensis pulla*). Along with 1,986 acres already acquired by the Conservancy, the area is scheduled for transfer to the Fish and Wildlife Service for inclusion in a proposed wildlife refuge.

Missouri

EL DORADO PRAIRIE—Thoreson Prairie III Addition—(Cedar County). 180 acres of native grassland were purchased with funds provided by Miss Katharine Ordway. Situated on rugged, hilly terrain, the tallgrass prairie is dominated by big

and little bluestem, indiangrass, and switchgrass. Prairie chickens and upland plovers are among the wildlife inhabiting the area. With this addition, the El Dorado Prairie comprises 419 acres.

OSAGE PRAIRIE NATURAL AREA—Addition —(Vernon County). With this 80-acre purchase, Osage Prairie totals 1,195 acres, and Landon Branch, a prairie stream, is protected for nearly 1½ miles. There is a good possibility that the blacknose shiner (*Notropis heterolepis*), an endangered species, exists in the stream. Purchased with funds provided by Miss Katharine Ordway, the area will be leased to the Missouri Department of Conservation for management. Osage Prairie is a unit in the Ordway Prairie System.

New Jersey

GREENWOOD-RANCOCAS RESERVE (Burlington County). With financing provided by the New York Life Insurance Company, the Conservancy acquired 1,800 acres of central New Jersey's historic pine barrens. The reserve contains 300 acres of cedar swamp, with the remaining upland of 1,500 acres covered with oak and pine forest. Two major streams, the Greenwood Branch and the Lower Mill Branch of Rancocas Creek, cross the tract. Acquired with the assistance of the N. J. Conservation Foundation, the tract is to be transferred to the state as an addition to Lebanon State Forest.

New Mexico

GILA NATIONAL FOREST—Hamilton Tract—(Catron County). Adjacent to Gila Wilderness Area, the 376-acre property is characterized by broad flat bottomland hemmed in by steep bluffs and low hills. The East Fork of the Gila River winds through the property for approximately 2.5 miles. Deer, elk, bear and mountain lion inhabit the area, which will be transferred to the U.S. Forest Service for addition to Gila National Forest.

LITTLE CHAMA VALLEY (Rio Arrbia County). Valued at over $4 million, Little Chama Valley Ranch is the highest priority acquisition for the New Mexico State Game Commission. Between 7,900 and 9,900 feet in elevation, the ranch forms a broad basin of grasslands which historically has been used for cattle grazing. The heavily vegetated mountain peaks on the western and eastern boundaries of the property provide excellent habitat for deer and elk. On the southeastern boundary, the Chama River provides a prime trout habitat. The 20,208-acre property is scheduled for transfer to the New Mexico State Game Commission.

New York

BARBERVILLE FALLS — Addition — (Rensselaer County). The Eastern New York Chapter is fundraising for $6,000 to purchase a 5-acre addition to the Conservancy's Barberville Falls Preserve. The property borders Poestenkill Creek and contains a large pit with many moss- and lichen-covered boulders. Vegetation includes mature hemlock, false solomon seal, partridge berry, wintergreen and a wide variety of ferns. The Chapter manages the preserve, which now totals 123 acres.

RIPARIUS CANOE ACCESS (Warren County). The property, acquired on behalf of the State of New York, fronts on the Hudson River and provides the only public access to the river within 25 miles. The 1/3-acre tract will be transferred to the state's Department of Environmental Conservation for use as a canoe access site.

SILVER LAKE CAMP PRESERVE (Clinton County). The 53-acre area supports a mature bog forest of mixed northern hardwoods, spruce, white pine, hemlock, tamarack, and arbor vitae, as well as a variety of species of orchids and ferns. A steep grade, rising from the bog to a high knoll overlooking Silver Lake, provides an excellent illustration of plant succession beginning with the pioneer plants such as aspen, birch, and pine, through the intermediate oaks up to yellow birch,

beech, and sugar maple-mixed hemlock-white pine climax forest. The property is a gift of Betty Hicks, Hazel L. Kingly and Gladys Larsen Pasel. The Adirondack Conservancy Committee will manage the preserve.

Ohio

PRICE HILL NATURE PRESERVE (Hamilton County). Located just two miles from downtown Cincinnati, the 14-acre tract lies in a deep wooded ravine and is crossed by a small creek. The property will be transferred to the Cincinnati Park Board for inclusion in a proposed 100-acre nature preserve and outdoor education lab. The East Price Hill Committee of the Ohio Chapter is seeking $8,500 for purchase of the land.

Pennsylvania

NIERING PRESERVE (Monroe County). Located on a ridge top in the Pocono Mountains, the 116-acre tract is covered with pitch pine, scrub oak, and oak-hemlock forest. Of particular ecological interest is a portion of the tract containing a xeric chestnut-oak forest community, where the effects of periodic droughts tend to keep the system in a state of flux. A 30-acre parcel is a gift of William and Catherine Niering; an easement on the remaining 86 acres was also donated by the Nierings. Plans call for the 30-acre parcel to be transferred, along with the easement, to East Stroudsburg State College for use in the Biology Department's teaching program.

South Dakota

SAMUEL H. ORDWAY, JR., MEMORIAL PRAIRIE—Addition—(McPherson County). 120 acres of tall to mixed grass prairie lie on the undulating terrain of the Missouri Coteau, a low range of morainic hills. Numerous wetlands, both permanent and ephemeral, provide habitat for a wide variety of waterfowl. The Ordway Prairie, now totaling 7,600 acres, also supports pronghorn antelopes, white-tailed deer, and sharptail grouse. The prairie is managed by the Midwest Regional Office and the Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Station.

Virginia

GREAT DISMAL SWAMP—Addition—(Chesapeake City). In cooperation with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the Conservancy purchased a 294-acre inholding in the Great Dismal Swamp. The swamp contains a mixture of northern and southern plant communities, including evergreen scrub bogs, loblolly pine barrens, cypress swamps, brier thickets, and mixed swamp forests of red maple, Atlantic cedar, and other swamp species.

Washington

BIRCH BAY (Whatcom County). With frontage on Birch Bay and Terrell Creek, the 19.5-acre property provides excellent habitat for shorebirds and migratory waterfowl. The area was acquired in cooperation with the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission for inclusion in the adjoining Birch Bay State Park.

DEERING WILDFLOWER PRESERVE—Addition—(Snohomish County). The 5-acre tract, a gift of Mrs. Ivah Deering, is in the western hemlock physiographic zone and consists primarily of representative early successional second growth, wet Douglas fir and red alder forest, and associated animal life. The existing 25-acre preserve includes a swamp and a pond. The 5-acre tract will be transferred to Western Washington State College for management.

FOULWEATHER BLUFF PRESERVE—Addition—(Kitsap County). A gift of Mr. John J. Sullivan, the 2-acre tract brings the total acreage of this preserve, formerly known as Rawson Grant, to 100. The entire area is primarily marshland with some upland mesic mixed forest, and provides habitat for pileated woodpeckers, marten, otter, shellfish, and numerous shorebirds and waterfowl. The preserve is managed by Olympic College.

GOOSE ISLAND (San Juan County). Located in the San Juan channel, the 3-acre island is a fairly regular, round island of modest topography, with rugged coastline and one small gravelly beach which supports a large population of nesting seabirds (glaucous-winged gulls and black oyster catchers). It is covered with native grasses, rare cactus, a rich display of wildflowers, shrubs, and stunted trees. Funds for the purchase of the island will be provided by a public fundraising campaign launched by the Northwest Field Office. The property will then be leased to the University of Washington for administration by the Friday Harbor Marine Science Laboratories.

Costa Rica

OSA PENINSULA. In cooperation with World Wildlife Fund and Rare Animal Relief Effort (RARE), the Conservancy assisted the Costa Rican government in the establishment of a 75,000-acre biological reserve on the Osa Peninsula. The reserve contains one of the biologically richest rain forests in all of tropical America. World Wildlife Fund and the Conservancy have launched an effort to raise $150,000 for management and protection of the area. See story beginning on page 17.

Green Mountain Independence

Fourth in a series

By Anne Ilka Webb

Green—continuous, coniferous green—how they must have exclaimed, those early French explorers, as the magnificence of one evergreen-cloaked mountain succeeded another in sight above the blue waters of Lake Champlain. These white men, arriving in the first decade of the 17th century, stretched their gaze across a thinly peopled land—a land that was a favorite hunting ground for several Indian tribes and the scene of fierce Indian wars.

The French landed in what is now Vermont by becoming involved in the dispute over the Indian hunting grounds. In 1609, Samuel de Champlain—after he joined his forces with the Algonquin and Huron Indians for a raid against the Iroquois—discovered the lake which now bears his name. Sailing with his soldiers along the lake's eastern shore, he claimed the land beyond for France.

Nearly a half century later, the French erected a fort on Isle La Motte in Lake Champlain, and the government of New France granted a number of domains in the surrounding areas. In 1724, the first permanent English settlement appeared in the Connecticut Valley where the colony of Massachusetts established Fort Dummer. The fort sent out warnings to the northern colonies of raids by the Indians and French. However, the success of the British in the French and Indian War (1754-1763) removed further French threats to the Vermont colony and opened the land to permanent settlement. During the era between the 1754-63 war and the American Revolution, some 20,000 people made their homes in and around the Green Mountains of Vermont.

This era of settlement was marked by several territorial disputes between the colonies of New Hampshire and New York—disputes which often erupted into armed conflict. Between 1761 and 1763, the governor of New Hampshire had granted 108 townships in the Green Mountains and Connecticut River Valley. Meanwhile, New York had granted lands in these same areas to its own settlers. A series of decisions by the English government led to the recognition of New York's territorial claims, thus forcing settlers who had New Hampshire grants to surrender them or rebuy their lands from New York.

Naturally, there were objections. A resistance was organized, particularly on the west side of the Green Mountains where Ethan Allen, a large landholder himself, assembled the Green Mountain Boys. These "outlaws," as the governor of the colony of New York branded them, were not only strong enough to defend their lands, but also bold enough to punish New Yorkers with the "Beach Seal" (whipping), to eject both sheriffs and surveyors, and to carry out raids into New York. The Green Mountain Boys were engaged in these daring exploits for some five years. Then news of the battles of Concord and Lexington reached Vermont, causing the "Yankees" to cease their hostilities against the "Yorkers," and turn their attention, instead, to resisting King George.

Although the First Continental Congress only authorized the colonies to defend themselves, as the Americans closed in around Boston in early spring, 1775, to retake the city from the British, the colonists found that a lack of military supplies necessitated some sort of offensive action. Besieged Fort Ticonderoga on Lake Champlain, with its rich stores of cannons and ammunition, seemed the perfect target. In an unresisted raid in the predawn chill of a May morning, Ethan Allen and some 80 men—members of the Green Mountain Boys and the Connecticut militia—seized the British fort and its valuable artillery "in the name of the great Jehovah and the Continental Congress." Next day, Crown Point was taken, and the Americans gained control of Lake Champlain.

In September of that same year, Ethan Allen took part in an ill-fated invasion of Canada. Captured during the attack on Montreal, he was taken to England and held until an exchange of prisoners took place in the spring of 1778. During Allen's absence, others carried on his patriotic role as political and military leaders in the struggle for America's freedom.

The British grand strategy of 1777—to divide New England from New York—achieved a meas-

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Anne Ilka Webb is editor of InterACTION, a national and international publication of ACTION, the federal voluntary service agency. A native of Annapolis, Maryland, and a resident of Washington, D.C., Ms. Webb is a former member of the Conservancy staff and has written in the past for the News. She also works as a freelance graphic designer and is active as an actress and director in community theater.

Ethan Allen captures Fort Ticonderoga "in the name of the great Jehovah and the Continental Congress."

ure of success when the troops of General Burgoyne recaptured Fort Ticonderoga and Crown Point. In the retreat that followed, the only battle of the Revolution fought on Vermont soil occurred at Hubbardton. Technically a defeat for the Green Mountain Boys, the clash was actually a brilliant delaying tactic which held off the British until the Americans could rest, regroup, and fight again a month later across the New York border at the Battle of Bennington. There the "redcoats" were soundly defeated; it was a victory which halted British land operations in the north.

As if emulating the independence and boldness of her Green Mountain Boys, the colony of Vermont found time during the Revolution to declare herself an independent republic. In framing her constitution in 1777, Vermont bestowed on all male citizens the right to vote and forbade Negro slavery, the first state in North America to do so.

In the succeeding dozen years, the little republic of Vermont—with Ethan Allen again leading in the struggle—defied the claims of New York, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts to its territory. She also defied the Continental Congress, which refused to recognize her independent status, to the extent that President Washington even considered sending troops to squelch the new government. The land controversies were finally settled in 1790 when Vermont bought her freedom by paying New York $30,000 for all disputed lands. On March 4th of the following year, after 14 years of independence, Vermont joined the Union, the first state to ally with the original 13.

The Green Mountain State grew peacefully within the new nation, remaining a land of town meetings and country living. For the past two centuries Vermont has not seen her verdant mountains or colorful pasturelands disturbed by the brutality of armed conflict. She is still a state of wooded hills—vibrantly green in the summer and spectacularly multicolored in the fall—of wildflowered meadows, tranquil farms, and stunning scenery. Hopefully the state's obvious beauty and climate—and a wise government—will protect her from land speculators and corporate developers, so that another two hundred years from now there will still be farm houses with wood-burning stoves and dirt roads meandering through the Green Mountains.

Vermont, with the aid of the Conservancy and its Vermont Chapter, has already taken important steps in safeguarding its famed Green Mountains. In 1970, on behalf of the state, the Conservancy purchased 6,385 acres of Green Mountain land including Mount Ethan Allen. The following year, Mendon Peak and Little Killington (a total of 3,215 acres) were purchased by the Conservancy and transferred to the state. Other Conservancy projects in the Green Mountain region of Vermont include Sugar Hollow Natural Area (31 acres), Barr Hill Nature Preserve (256 acres), and Honey Hollow (355 acres). The Vermont Chapter's 15 land preservation projects throughout the state also include Ethan Allen Farms—part of the farm originally owned by the Revolutionary War hero.

SOUTHERN BAYOU IN THE MIDWEST

By Daniel E. Pike

Illinois . . . the Prairie State. Two thirds of the glaciated Illinois landscape was once covered with the lushest prairies in the world. Now, except for a few scattered remnants, the prairie grasses and forbs have yielded to subdivisions, super-highways, and soybean fields.

However, the remaining prairies are not the only examples of significant ecosystems left in Illinois. Foresight has saved fragments of the state's dunes, bogs, bur oak groves and hardwood forests, and vast riverbottom marshes which once bobbed with migratory waterfowl.

Despite the wide diversity of natural areas in Illinois, some seasoned state naturalists were still surprised at the existence of the most recent acquisition by the Conservancy's Illinois Chapter: the Little Black Slough. Located in Johnson County at the far southern tip of Illinois between the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers, the Slough's large stands of water tupelo and huge bald cypress trees

are more reminiscent of a Louisiana bayou than the traditional Illinois plains. The Little Black Slough is believed to be the last unprotected wilderness in the state.

The best way to observe the Slough is by wading, which is reserved only for the heartiest individuals. Deep water, impenetrable thickets of buttonbush, and cottonmouth water moccasins can spell disaster for the unprepared. However, if you canoe through Little Black Slough—preferably in the spring—you are struck by the remoteness of the quiet murky Cache River backwaters and the surrounding wall of uniformly tall, straight, dark brown tupelo trunks. The total calm is broken only by chorusing bird-voiced tree frogs (*Hyla avivoca*) or the silent motion of a lone beaver or river otter as it glides through the swamp.

At dusk you might catch a glimpse of a rare Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) as it sweeps above the water feeding on insects, or a woodcock as it performs a spiraling dive from the treetops, a spectacular feat that is part of the bird's dramatic mating ritual. Well into the night you can hear the screech of the rare yellow-crowned night heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*), or one of the three other species of heron that nest on the 1,100-acre Heron Pond State Nature Preserve, adjacent to the Slough.

The Slough also harbors bantam sunfish (*Lepomis symmetricus*), mole salamanders (*Ambystoma talpoideum*), pileated woodpeckers (*Dryocopus pileatus*), and Swainson's warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*)—all rare species—plus egrets, bitterns, and a variety of ducks and geese.

Although Little Black Slough stretches over nearly five miles of Cache River backwaters, and dominates the 2,500-acre preserve, it is far from being the only ecological treasure within the area. Between October and January—when the waters have receded—you can walk into Goose Pond, located on the northern edge of the preserve, and view a stand of huge bald cypress trees. The immensity of the trees, which stretch as far as you can see, and the silence provided by the cypress' closed canopy is overwhelming. The hollowed trunks of the old giants (most predate the American Revolution by at least 100 years) frequently exceed 14 feet in circumference. It is easy to imagine that fur trappers and Iliniwek Indians sought temporary refuge from foul weather inside the cypress. (On a recent visit, 12 people were able to stand shoulder-to-shoulder inside the base of one of the larger trees.)

Cypress "knees," the strange knobs that grow out of the roots and ring the trees, add to the eeriness of Goose Pond. It is believed that the irregularly shaped stumps provide aeration to the root system during the many months the bald cypress stands in water.

If you continue your journey southeast from Goose Pond, roughly paralleling the main channel of the Cache River, you begin to ascend the west end of Wildcat Bluff, so named because the state's last bobcat sighting was here. The climb from riverbottom to blufftop reveals one of the most striking changes in floral species in Illinois. The floodplain, riverbanks, and swampy sections of the preserve reflect communities unique to extreme southern Illinois. Many of the flora are much more representative of the Southern Coastal Plain. Chestnut oaks, cherrybark oaks, pin oaks, huge Drummond's red maples, and overcup oaks line the Slough. Wildcat Bluff, on the other hand, is comprised largely of oak-hickory woods and dry prairie openings which are more conventional to Illinois. In addition, the steep 200-foot slope of the bluff is often interrupted by limestone or sandstone outcroppings up to 50 feet high.

Looking south from atop Wildcat Bluff, you can see the Cache River and the Little Black Slough as it meanders through the 3,600 acres of cypress and water tupelo forest that make up the Heron Pond-Little Black Slough complex. On the horizon, beyond the Ohio River, is Kentucky.

Geologically, the entire area is a spur of the Ozark highlands. Isolated sandstone canyons and rugged wooded terrain surround the lowlands. A 70-foot cliff juts abruptly out of the middle of the Slough and marks the west end of Boss Island. The 500-acre island contains some of Illinois' finest old growth forest dominated by oak-hickory communities on the south-facing slopes and sugar maple and tulip trees on the north-facing slopes. Along the edges of Boss Island, the limbs of the upland oaks and hickories actually overlap with those of the bald cypress and water tupelo growing from the swamp below—certainly a botanical rarity.

The Little Black Slough preserve, with its variety of topographies and diversity of natural types, harbors over 100 species of native woody plants, including 12 species of oak and 7 species of hickory. In addition, at least 15 species of the preserve's plants and animals are considered locally or nationally rare. However, the preservation of this unique wilderness and its inhabitants has not been simple.

The Little Black Slough primarily owes its protection to benevolent owners. Around the turn of the century, much of the timberland in southwest Johnson County was being accumulated by the Main family of Karnak, Illinois. The Mains owned a prosperous local sawmill. Though their business depended upon an adequate timber sup-

ply, they managed their logging operations with a balanced approach to man's needs and nature's integrity. Because the Mains never cut trees under 24 inches in diameter and always left at least one large tree per acre as a seed source, the few portions of the Slough that the owners did harvest retain old growth characteristics with minimal or no evidence of past disturbance. Out of respect for this unique area, the Mains chose to leave almost all of the Slough uncut. In 1973 the Main Brothers Box and Lumber Company sold the property to the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company (Westvaco).

In the meantime—during the early 1970's—three state naturalists, John Schwegman, John White, and Max Hutchinson, studied and reported on the importance of the Slough. They urged the State of Illinois to acquire the area. Dr. Richard Goodwin, member of the Conservancy's Board of Governors, also reported the Slough's significance in his book, *Inland Wetlands of the United States* with William Niering. Faced with limited funds, the state did purchase Heron Pond, but was unable to obtain the complete ecosystem including the Slough.

Therefore, upon hearing of the sale to the Westvaco Corporation, the state asked The Nature Conservancy to act on its behalf. A meeting of state officials, naturalists, and Conservancy representatives was called in Chicago by businessman and conservationist Gaylord Donnelley to discuss strategy. While the Conservancy staff and Mr. Donnelley met with Westvaco personnel, the Illinois Nature Preserve Commission inspected the Little Black Slough and delivered its verdict: it must be preserved.

Westvaco suspended its plans for the Slough while it explored the alternatives for preservation with the Conservancy. Westvaco concurred that the area should be protected, but it was simply too valuable to donate. In a region of scrub timberlands and rocky pastures, the great amount of standing timber and rich alluvial soils of the Slough made it virtually irreplaceable to the company's Wickcliffe, Kentucky, mill. After months of negotiations that included a four-state search for suitable non-conservation timber lands for trade purposes, Westvaco agreed to sell Little Black Slough to The Nature Conservancy for $1.25 million, significantly less than the area's appraised value.

Commenting on the transaction, David L. Luke, III, President of Westvaco, stated, "Little Black Slough is an area of rare beauty and ecological significance, created by nature in the evolution of our forests. It is not feasible for our company to preserve a tract of land this size, so we are pleased that a practical solution has been found to set aside this property for the people of Illinois." Again, benevolent owners helped protect the Slough.

A canoeist enjoys the peace and solitude of Little Black Slough.

The Illinois Department of Conservation has made acquisition of the Little Black Slough a top priority effort, and their request of $900,000 for its purchase passed the state legislature unopposed. It is now up to the Conservancy's Illinois Chapter to raise $400,000 needed from private donations to complete the acquisition. Headed by Mr. Donnelley and Mr. Charles Haffner, III (Conservancy Governor and Treasurer of the Illinois Chapter), the fundraising committee has raised over a quarter of the funds required, but additional donations are urgently needed.

The Little Black Slough is the largest single acquisition for conservation in Illinois history. It is appropriate that government, industry, and the private sector should join together in an effort to protect this significant reminder of the Prairie State's natural diversity and wild beauty.

MARYLAND'S PROGRAM OPEN SPACE:

A Unique Method of Financing Land Acquisition

By L. Gregory Low

In the face of population growth, increasing land values, and growing financial pressures, many state and local governments have been hard pressed to finance the acquisition of much-needed public open space. Consequently, the public has faced an ever-widening deficit in the amount of land being preserved for open space and recreational needs.

One unique and workable solution to this dilemma has been found, and has operated successfully now for over five years in the State of Maryland.

Recognizing the importance of the land, the natural resources it supports, and the quality which an environmental conservation program can add to our way of life, the Maryland General Assembly in 1968 established a special committee to recommend a program for open space acquisition. The committee noted a huge gap of acreage (and dollars) needed for additional open space and recreational areas throughout the state. Land values were climbing at the rate of ten percent annually. Significant natural areas were being developed. Funding was woefully insufficient to provide for a major land acquisition program. The State had a critical and growing shortage of open space. The committee recommended the creation of "Program Open Space" to provide for the prompt acquisition of recreational and open space lands by state conservation agencies and local governments.

Governor Marvin Mandel and the Maryland General Assembly endorsed the program, and Program Open Space was signed into law in 1969. Since then, $88 million of bond indebtedness has been authorized to fund the program. To cover the bond costs, a statewide transfer tax of one-half of one percent (0.5%) is applied to all sales of real property recorded in the state. The unique tax was designed to pay all debt service costs, retire the bonds themselves in future years, and provide approximately $40 million in additional funds for open space acquisition.

With the bond authorization and transfer tax revenues as the program's base, the Maryland General Assembly has appropriated over $148 million for Program Open Space since 1969.

Moreover, Program Open Space has essentially become a "pay as you go" program. Only $20 million in bonds have actually been sold, because transfer tax revenues have been sufficient to meet the state's yearly cash outlays.

The direction of the program has been toward acquisition (versus development) of recreational and open space lands. Approximately one-half of the funds is channeled to state conservation agencies; the remainder is used to assist local governments through matching grants of up to 100% of a project's cost.

The Nature Conservancy has worked closely with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources in selected land acquisitions under the program. Most notably, the Conservancy assisted the state with the purchase of over 1,300 acres near Sugarloaf Mountain for the newly created Monocacy River Natural Resources Area. This Conservancy project will ultimately link the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Park along the Potomac with the privately owned 3,000-acre Sugarloaf Mountain Preserve—and thus save for future generations an outstanding natural, historical, and scenic area in Maryland's piedmont, only 30 miles from Washington, D.C.

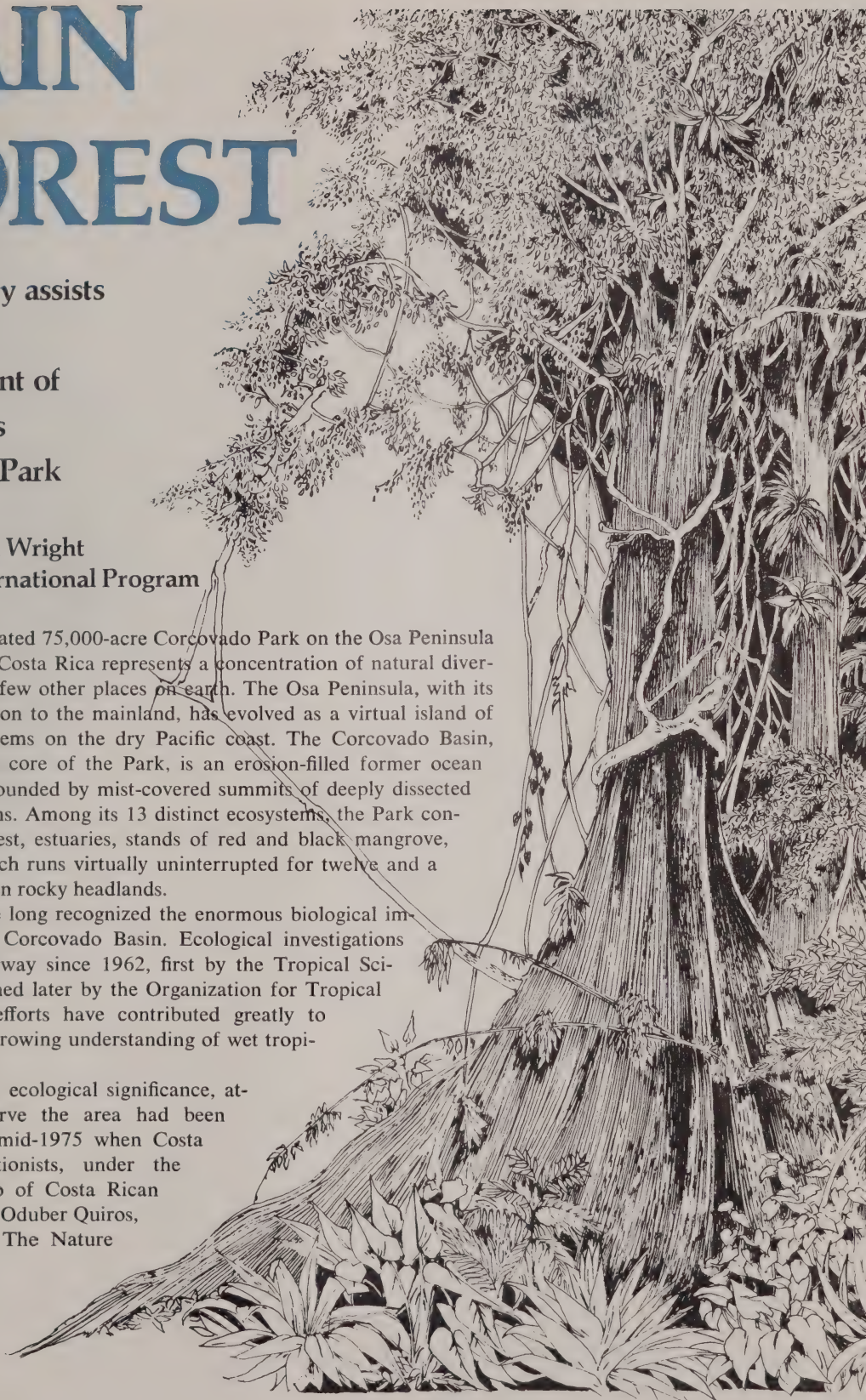
Maryland's creative approach to open space acquisition makes good sense, financially and otherwise. The state has been able to act quickly to acquire key areas, thereby avoiding escalating land values while saving critical open space areas from development. And since the program is being paid for now, the state is not placing a financial burden on future generations.

Most importantly, the real property transfer tax lets land sellers and real estate developers, in effect, finance the acquisition of public open space. Since the existence of ample, nearby open space and recreational areas enhances the value of privately owned land, the transfer tax benefits not only the general public, but also the persons who ultimately pay the tax.

RAIN FOREST

Conservancy assists in the establishment of Costa Rica's Corcovado Park

By R. Michael Wright
Director, International Program



The newly created 75,000-acre Corcovado Park on the Osa Peninsula of southwestern Costa Rica represents a concentration of natural diversity matched by few other places on earth. The Osa Peninsula, with its tenuous connection to the mainland, has evolved as a virtual island of wet tropical systems on the dry Pacific coast. The Corcovado Basin, which forms the core of the Park, is an erosion-filled former ocean embayment surrounded by mist-covered summits of deeply dissected ancient mountains. Among its 13 distinct ecosystems, the Park contains swamp forest, estuaries, stands of red and black mangrove, and a beach which runs virtually uninterrupted for twelve and a half miles between rocky headlands.

Scientists have long recognized the enormous biological importance of the Corcovado Basin. Ecological investigations have been underway since 1962, first by the Tropical Science Center, joined later by the Organization for Tropical Studies. These efforts have contributed greatly to our limited but growing understanding of wet tropical ecosystems.

But despite its ecological significance, attempts to preserve the area had been frustrated until mid-1975 when Costa Rican conservationists, under the strong leadership of Costa Rican President Daniel Oduber Quiros, were joined by The Nature

Drawing reproduced from *The Tropical Forest* by Mary Batten with permission of Thomas Y. Crowell Co. Copyright Betty Fraser, 1973.

Mammals found in the Corcovado include: above left, a margay kitten; below left, spider monkey; and above, tapir, largest of the neotropical land mammals.

Conservancy and World Wildlife Fund in an effort to save the Corcovado. Extensive negotiations with the peninsula's major private landowners, an American-owned Costa Rican company, resulted in an agreement setting aside all the basin lands. In the waning days of October, President Oduber formally decreed the Corcovado a park. World Wildlife Fund and the New York-based Rare Animal Relief Effort (RARE) each committed $10,000 toward the immediate protection needs of the Park.

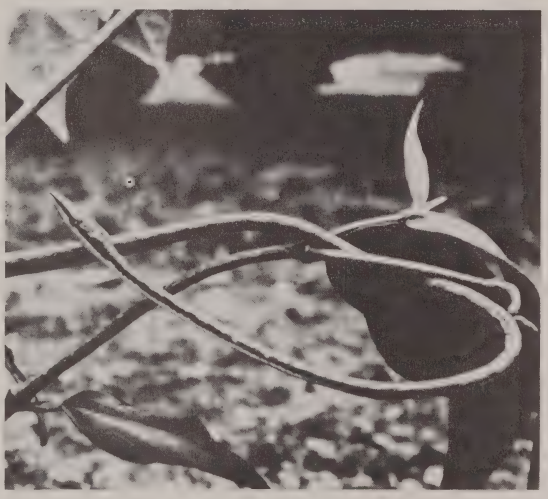
Elaborating on the significance of the event, Dr. Monte Lloyd, Professor of Biology at the University of Chicago, said, "Costa Rica possesses an important scientific resource that exists nowhere in any industrialized country; not in the United States, nor in Europe, nor in Russia, nor in Japan —a large area of undisturbed tropical rain forest, large enough to preserve the diversity of species . . . There is no other area like it in any Central American country to the north and probably no other area in the whole of Latin America as ideally suited for conservation."

The biotic diversity of the Park results from Costa Rica's role as the land bridge for flora and fauna from northern and southern hemispheres. Thus, the number of bird species found in Central American forests can reach four times the number of species in the temperate forests of the eastern U.S. Among the 287 species listed for the Osa Peninsula are five found only in this region: a wren, a tanager, an antbird, a toucan, and a trogan. The Park contains numerous varieties of hawks, falcons, and hummingbirds, plus the resplendent quetzal, the common motmot, and gaudy toucans with their over-sized bills. Raucous parrots and the booming "glong" of the three wattled bellbird are heard throughout the forest. The swamps provide habitat for ibis, jabiru stork, cormorants, roseate spoonbills, the boat-billed heron and several other herons; the coast harbors magnificent frigate birds, boobies, pelicans, and an occasional osprey. In addition, the Park shelters populations of the endangered harpy eagle and scarlet macaw.

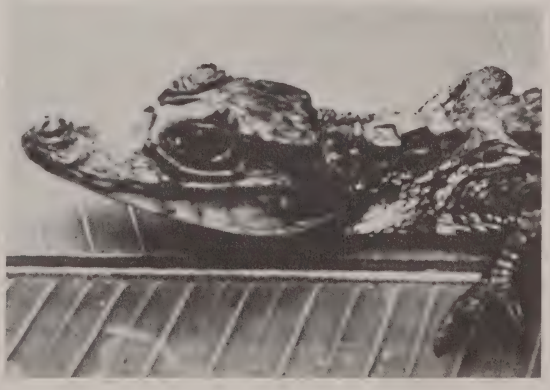
The tropical forest's major consumers are the ever-present leaf-cutter ants, foraging brigades of

Right, the endangered hawks-bill turtle; center, a well-camouflaged vine snake; and bottom, a baby caiman, a close relative of the alligator.

carnivorous army ants, and other varieties which sustain such highly specialized species as the Corcovado's endangered giant anteater. Threatened American crocodiles and caimans share the marshes and lagoons with some of the Peninsula's 42 species of frogs and 19 species of lizards. The *fer de lance*, the coral snake, and many non-poisonous varieties of snakes—including the boa constrictor—populate the various forest systems. Sharing the nesting beaches with the endangered hawks-bill and Pacific green turtles are the pelagic leatherback and Pacific ridley. Sperm whales have been sighted in the offshore waters.



Of the Basin's six species of cats, four—jaguar, ocelot, mountain lion and margay—are widely threatened elsewhere in Central America. However, in the Park they find ample food among the bands of collared and white-lipped peccaries, the ungainly browsing tapir (largest of neotropical land mammals), and the Park's smaller rodents and reptiles. Over 30 species of bats fill niches in the rain forest, along with coatimundis, armadillos, masked tayras (one of the largest of the weasels), and brocket deer.



The need to climb and cling in neotropical rain forests has led to a variety of special and interesting adaptations. An excellent example is the fifth limb, or the prehensile tail, which is more common in tropical America than anywhere else. Within the Park this evolutionary trait is found in the rare titi monkey, the spider, howler, and white-

faced capuchin monkeys (whose old world cousins did not develop the adaptation), as well as in an anteater, kinkajous, several types of opossums, and a porcupine. A more sedentary survival solution is demonstrated by the Park's two species of sloth which are adapted to moving sluggishly or hanging almost motionless in the trees. Their coats, which grow down from the sloth's upturned belly in order to shed the incessant rain, are tinted in green camouflage from algae living in the animal's fur.

Writing about the Corcovado Basin, Dr. Joseph Tosi of the Tropical Science Center has noted that "no old growth forest in the world can surpass the tropical wet forest in sheer biomass, structural immensity, or species complexity." This is reflected in the scale of the upper basin forest where shallowly rooted trees, draped in vines, rise unbranched to 115 feet and reach 213 feet with plant buttresses over 7 feet tall. The four vertical layers of the mature tropical forest differ dramatically from each other. Each layer teems with its own separate compliment of life and has strongly contrasting microclimates. Thus, a tree growing from sapling to maturity must constantly adapt to successive changes in light and other conditions.

The gallery forest further down in the Basin is dominated by great espavel trees (*Anacardium excelsum*) which have cylindrical trunks up to 10 feet in diameter. In the more saturated soils in the Basin, the graceful *guayabon* (*Terminalis lucida*) is common. In adapting to a waterlogged existence, some plants rise from stilts, others float (almost filling Lake Corcovado), while many abandon the ground altogether and—as epiphytes—move into the trees.

A two-toed sloth hangs motionless in a tree.

True swamp forest occupies the often flooded two-thirds of the flat plain. In contrast to the upland forest, where several acres contain widely scattered representatives of 100 tree species, the impenetrable swamp forest is largely composed of a single species. The great arching leaves of this yollillo palm (*Raphia tadeigera*) reach 32 feet in length. Throughout the plain a labyrinth of meandering streams are interspersed with marshy ground. The humidity of the area remains perpetually at the saturation level.

The Corcovado's bewildering variety of life is a deception, for the apparent fertility results not from the richness of the soils but from a climate unmarked by warm and cold seasons as we know them. The nutrients are locked in the vegetation and disappear when man substitutes his crops. Past attempts to squeeze economic profit from this land have proven ethereal, yet man continues. Robert Allen of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature has observed that by using modern machines ". . . a hectare (2.4 acres) of tropical forest — 900 tonnes (metric tons) of living plants—can be cleared in only two hours. In a fragment of time, we can reduce the richest, oldest plant community in the world to a sterile mockery of its former self. Anyone who survives the next ten years will witness the snuffing out of 50 million years of continuous evolution. To be a child of our times is to be able to say, 'I will outlive the jungle.' "

Scientists are presently debating the severity of the consequences from extinction of the world's rain forests. Ecologist Paul W. Richards has observed, "One effect is certain and probably already irreversible. . . The rain forest has for millions of years served as a factory and storehouse of evolutionary diversity from which plants and animals able to adapt to more rigorous environments have migrated to populate the subtropical, temperate, and colder regions." If the rain forests are eliminated altogether, we would destroy the remaining reservoirs of genetic raw materials which have served (and can continue to serve) the evolutionary needs of the entire planet. Furthermore, we would be losing great storehouses of knowledge at a time when we still have little understandnig of the complex interaction of natural communities or the nutritional, medicinal, and chemical potentials hidden in possibly the most biologically diverse of natural systems.

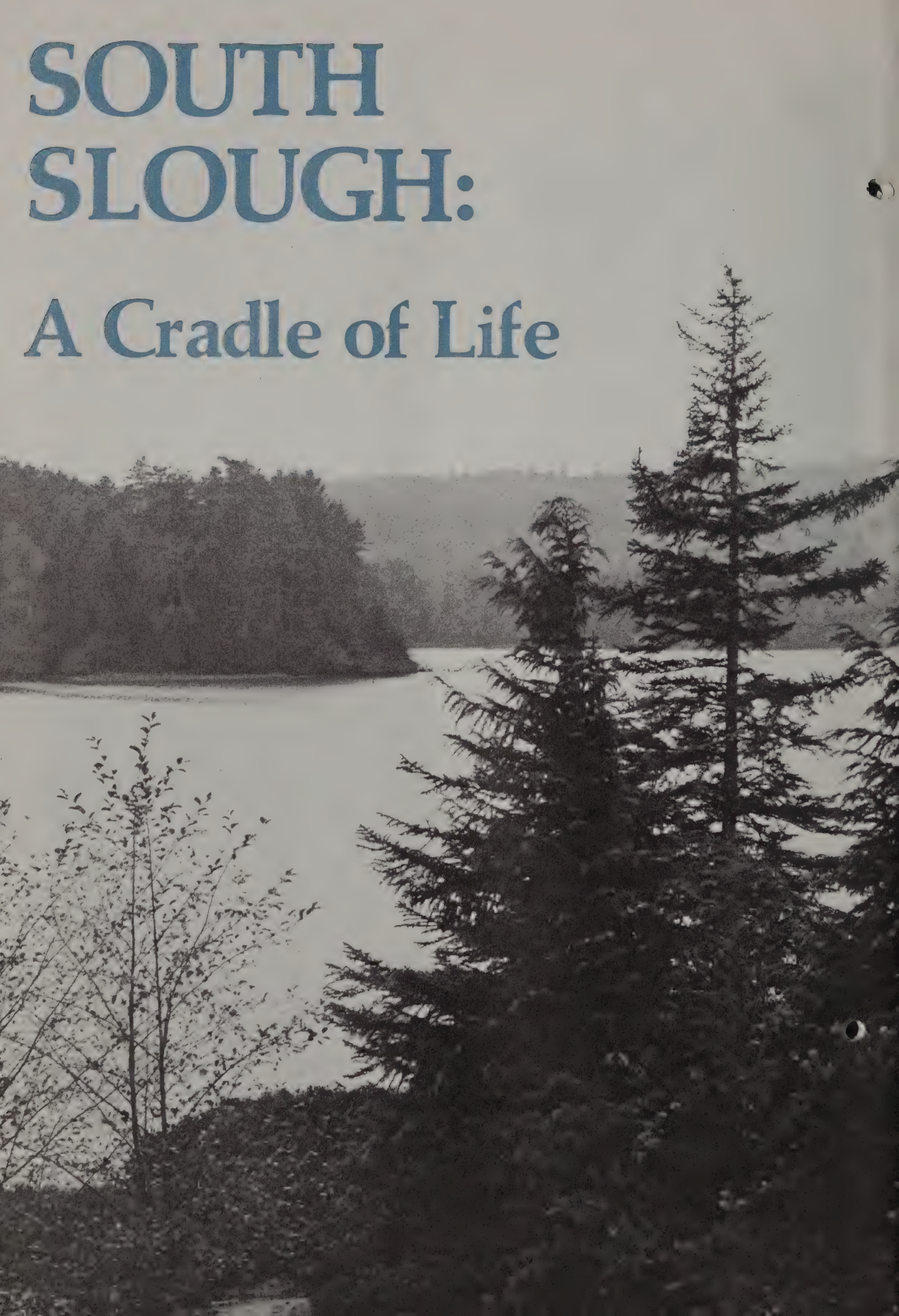
Among the 287 bird species found in the Osa Peninsula are: above, the harpy eagle; right, the quetzal; and below, the toucan.

As comparable natural areas become scarce (and scientists estimate that two-thirds of the Central American forests have disappeared already), the critical importance of the Corcovado Park increases proportionately. The future of the Park is not yet secure, despite the firm commitment of President Oduber and Costa Rican conservationists. With the existing demands of a park system considered by many to be the finest in Central America, international support is needed for immediate protection, to acquire small landholdings, and to develop a sustaining financial base. A fundraising goal of $150,000 has been established.

In his report to President Oduber, Dr. Tosi said, "No written description . . . can begin to convey to the reader a true idea of the structural magnificence and incredible biological variety, or of the wealth of primal sights, smells, and sounds to be experienced by the visitor to these virgin communities in the Corcovado Basin. Trained biologists, long experienced in regions of lesser biological complexity and perhaps hardened to the esthetic experience in nature, return from their first visit to the Corcovado Basin with ecstatic praise, eager to find some opportunity to return again." Only with major and immediate support will the opportunity remain for future generations.

SOUTH SLOUGH:

A Cradle of Life



by Ken Margolis

As the Coos River flows west toward the southern Oregon coast, it drops through a narrow valley dotted with farms. A few miles east of the coast, the gorge-like valley widens into a broad delta, and several small tributaries join the Coos, finally draining into Coos Bay, a good-sized port which has become the hub of a trio of cities.

On the southern edge of the bay, the ocean extends two salty fingers south in a crooked victory sign, forming the small estuary known as the South Slough of Coos Bay. Although the South Slough area has been subjected to logging since the 1880's, when local Indians cut cedar for match wood, there has been little other development. A few farmsteads still exist, and one can still find remnants of the old tavern on 22-acre Valino Island, where the loggers used to go after a hard day's work. The old-timers say a logger would occasionally fall off Valino Island in the late watches, and never be heard from again.

Estuaries, such as the South Slough, are the richest biological systems in the world. A healthy estuary may have six times the biomass, square foot for square foot, of a heavily fertilized corn field. The importance of estuaries as "the bottom of the food chain," as nurseries for anadromous fish, and as habitat for shorebirds and waterfowl, is nearly incalculable. Because of the importance of these areas in general, and because South Slough is such a splendid example, the Conservancy has been working since 1972 to save South Slough.

However, little progress was made until a breakthrough occurred in 1974. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), under the U.S. Department of Commerce, announced the establishment of an Estuarine Sanctuary Program, with the intention of setting aside at least one estuary in each of 11 geophysical sectors of the country. Under the aggressive leadership of then-Governor Tom McCall, Oregon was the first state in the nation to explore the program.

A committee met and considered Oregon's 14 estuaries. After only a few weeks of study, it was determined that the two most pristine, defensible estuaries in the state were South Slough and McCapery's Slough. The Conservancy's Northwest Office had already done sufficient ownership research to indicate that acquisition of South Slough would be more feasible. Within months of the announcement of the Estuarine Sanctuary Program, the state of Oregon had submitted its application to NOAA.

Governor McCall asked the Conservancy to cooperate with the state in acquisition of the 34 ownerships within the proposed sanctuary boundaries. Since the Conservancy had already been active in that area, we were able to secure an option on one of the most crucial properties—Valino Island—even before the state's application had been accepted by NOAA.

In July, Oregon's application was accepted, and there followed a long process of working out more precise boundaries and a provisional management plan for the sanctuary. The stated purpose of an Estuarine Sanctuary is to ". . . set aside . . . any part or all of an estuary, adjoining transitional areas, and adjacent uplands, constituting to the extent feasible a natural unit . . . to provide scientists and students the opportunity to examine over a period of time the ecological relationships within the area." Those guidelines were clear enough, and in fact, downright exciting; but many questions remained: What would make a "natural unit?" How much timber land would have to be taken out of production, and what would it cost? What activities would be compatible with the ongoing baseline research? Where was the state's share of the matching grant going to come from?

Governor McCall opened his conference room for meetings to discuss these questions, and through the summer and into the fall and winter, a group of people—representatives of state agencies, South Slough landowners, county commissioners, Conservancy staff and a few concerned citizens—would meet every few weeks in the Governor's conference room. The problems were complex and the atmosphere would often become tense and murky. Occasionally, at such moments, the Governor would join us. He would listen a while, make a few suggestions, and leave; and suddenly, the room would appear lighter and the problems more solvable.

It was not until early 1975 that the boundaries and a provisional management plan were finally agreed upon. By that time, Conservancy staff had made contact with most of the 34 landowners, and had been able to identify potential sources of gifts of land which would help the state make up its share of the $2.4 million program. As always in these situations, the Conservancy had help from local citizens who lived in the area and had been working to save their slough for years. Dr. Paul Rudy, director of a marine biological laboratory less than two miles from the northern border of the sanctuary, was able to tell us which properties were most important for the ecological integrity of the area. Bob Younkers, whose Indian ancestors had lived in the area for generations, and whose grandfather had once told him, "Whatever you do, boy, don't let them ruin the slough," knew everybody living in the area and was able to pro-

A sandstone bluff on Long Island Point rises above the waters of the Slough.

vide essential introductions, as well as much information about the history of South Slough.

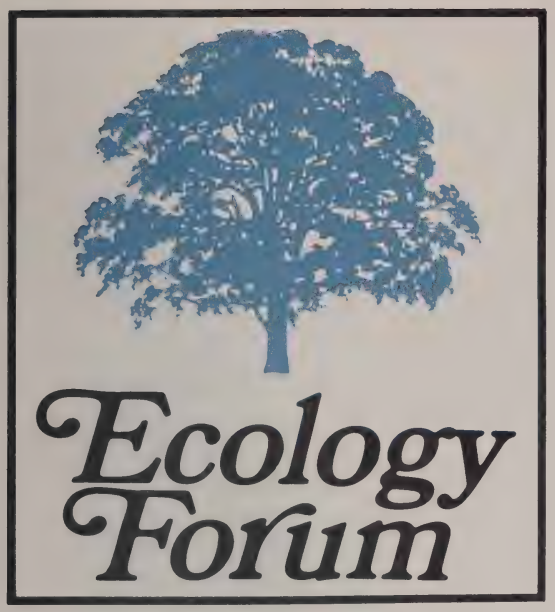
In fact, there was help from all around the state. Through a cooperative effort between the Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition and the Conservancy, a letter went out under Tom McCall's signature, asking Oregonians to show their support for the South Slough Sanctuary by sending in one dollar as a vote for the sanctuary. People were specifically asked to send only a dollar per person, so the total amount collected would also function as a nose-count. Within five weeks, the two conservation organizations were able to present the state with a check for $1,776, and a few days later the Oregon state legislature voted a $400,000 appropriation for the sanctuary.

By the end of 1975, the Conservancy had bought a second property of 120 acres and taken an option on the largest single holding in the sanctuary: Georgia-Pacific's 2,081 acres. The Georgia-Pacific property was valued at $1,700,000, but the company sold to the Conservancy for $850,000. Thus, with one transaction, the state had acquired nearly half of the 4,300-acre sanctuary and generated a gift of over $800,000 toward matching the federal grant.

There is more to be done at South Slough, and the work is continuing. All of the property within the boundaries is scheduled to be acquired by the end of 1976, and the baseline research program will also be underway by the end of the year. The Conservancy will have transferred its property to the State Land Board for administration by the Division of State Lands. A full-time Sanctuary Manager, advised by an inter-disciplinary team of natural scientists, will direct research activities.

South Slough looks much the same as it did in the 1880's when Indians lived in the area. If you enter it by canoe and glide past Valino Island, you may see a great blue heron fishing by the shore for the coho salmon and trout fingerlings whose mothers spawn in the mud-sand bottom. An osprey may glide silently overhead or a river otter lifts its dark eyes out of the water for a moment as you paddle by. The scars of past logging can be seen on some of the hills, but they will heal with time; the slough will remain, like a great, silent guardian protecting its myriad inhabitants.

Even those of us who will never visit South Slough will benefit from its preservation. It is the first Estuarine Sanctuary to be established in the United States. The research to be conducted there in coming years will teach us much about the biological productivity and inherent resources of estuaries. Here, in one of nature's richest lairs, we may hope to learn things which we have not yet imagined.



No. 18
by Robert E. Jenkins and
Helmut P. Moyseenko

PROGRESS IN DEVELOPING A NATIONAL DATA BASE ON ECOLOGICAL PRESERVATION

Past Ecology Forums have mentioned our objective of creating a national inventory and data base on natural areas and ecological diversity (Summer 1972; Summer 1973). We have worked toward this goal by making more localized inventories, by developing data management methodologies, by computerizing certain natural area data, by cooperating in such efforts as the Conservation of Ecosystems inventory of the International Biological Program, by recommending a data bank in our Preservation of Natural Diversity report to the Department of the Interior, and by proliferating State Natural Heritage Programs. Two recent developments have brought us a significant step forward in our cumulative efforts to create such an inventory and data base.

First, we have been contracted by the National Science Foundation (NSF) to collect into one central repository and organize for computerized access, information on "Established Scientific Ecological Reserves." These are reserves set aside under various auspices specifically for scientific research. They include Research Natural Areas of Federal agencies, Experimental Ecological Reserves and biological field stations of universities and other institutions, scientific reserves operated by several state governments, and certain lands owned by the Conservancy and other conservation organizations.

Second, we received a grant from the Exxon Company, U.S.A., to embark on a much more comprehensive but closely related data compilation effort on preserved lands generally. Data gathering on this project will intermesh with that being conducted under the NSF effort, and will be further augmented by information from individual State Natural Heritage Programs, from our own extensive files, and by information compiled under contracts from the Department of the Interior to survey existing natural area protection programs.

The most intensive, specialized, and technically demanding of these current efforts will be the NSF contract activity. It will consist of several phases, the first of which involves determining whether there are additional reserve systems which qualify for inclusion. We are simultaneously compiling selected available information, and deciding which data should be computerized and in what order. As our experience with Heritage Programs and other inventories has shown us, some types of information can be more readily and usefully retrieved from manual files than from computers. The attempt to computerize everything can become self-defeating. As the amount of computerization increases, so do costs of storage and retrieval, programming complexity, and the reliability of systems. Further analysis will determine what data segments are suitable for automation, in terms of utility, cost-effectiveness, overhead, and ease of use.

In phase two, we will be developing the computer systems and manual file structures by modifying existing programs and adding new capabilities as required. By careful use of automated data management techniques, many advantages may be achieved. Computerized information is not outdated as soon as it is published, since the data base can be readily managed, revised, etc. Most important, such a system offers retrieval capabilities whereby users will be able to ask specific questions and receive specific answers pertaining to geographic and/or subject areas of interest. Our system will provide for considerable flexibility in report and display format, being capable of generating various print-outs and different types of maps.

Purposes of the NSF contract are basically two:

(1) to determine (for the edification of the Federal Committee on Ecological Reserves and others) whether existing scientific reserves collectively contain adequate representation of the array of species habitats, ecosystem types, and other ecological entities or phenomena; and (2) to create a prototype for the facilitation of scientific research by making presently scattered information on scientific reserves more easily available. The objectives of the Exxon-supported activity are obviously broader while being fundamentally consistent with the methodologies necessary to accomplish NSF goals. This will allow us to expand the scope of our data gathering to achieve a better perspective on the overall protection status of the elements of ecological diversity and to begin a synthesis of intensive inventories at the state level. This widening of perspective is expected to confer benefits even in terms of the NSF effort. For example, an efficient procedure for establishing new research reserves with as yet unrepresented ecosystems or community types may be to look among other existing reserves, such as parks or wildlife refuges. Appropriate parts of such areas might then be converted by administrative action into scientific reserves. We also expect these efforts to strengthen the State Natural Heritage Programs by helping to determine what elements of natural ecological diversity are already adequately represented on protected and managed lands.

After the overall program and strategy have been initially charted, a group of disciplinary specialists and potential users of the system will meet to critique the entire approach and to suggest modifications. The conference will attempt to reach a consensus on the best means of integrating the information into a national data base. After the conference, we will make whatever modifications are needed to finalize procedures.

The last phase of the project will be devoted to transcribing and incorporating the collected information into the data management systems. After the data has been entered, we will experiment with outputs and analysis. Preliminary directories, maps, and indices will be sent to various individuals and institutions to be checked for accuracy and potential utility. Where possible, data gaps or inadequacies will be clearly identified and these same individuals will be encouraged to supply missing information or to correct existing errors.

If such a system is found beneficial to the scientific community, we hope to have it continued under our own or other auspices, and to expand its scope and intensity in order to improve its performance and breadth of application. The Exxon grant will allow us to anticipate these needs and to progress rapidly with such expansion.

There are some interesting problems which remain to be solved. The "element by element" approach to data collection and analysis used in the Heritage Programs (*The Nature Conservancy News*, Spring 1975) is not immediately applicable because of inadequacies in existing national classification systems, the absence or dispersed nature of extant data, the lack of standardization among the currently concentrated data sources, and the universality of "site by site" aggregation of available information.

The lack of a suitable national classification system is particularly troublesome and really deserves a coordinated effort all its own. Ultimately, the state classifications developed by Heritage Programs may additively generate an operable system. In the meantime, the only classification in standard use is the taxonomic system used for plant and animal species. However, the enormous number of biological species poses formidable obstacles to data collection and management. In the Heritage Programs, we have reduced this problem to manageable proportions by treating more abundant species in community aggregates and collecting specific information for only a limited number of the rarest species which obviously require direct attention if they and their habitats are to survive. Whether this approach will be easily adaptable to a national data management effort remains to be seen. We are actively exploring some simplifying procedures for interim use but are also considering ways in which we might handle whole species lists without making the data system prohibitively cumbersome or expensive.

While there will always be problems to be surmounted, our expectation is that these closely related projects could coalesce into the first real national data bank on the existence, status, condition, and distribution of ecological systems and components. Along with the direct applications already discussed, such an information synthesis may help to reverse the fragmentation of what should be a coherent national program to perpetuate ecological diversity. A broadly utilitarian data base offers the potential for indirect coordination through a common reliance on the same information source. This approach may circumvent the difficulties which would be encountered in bringing about the same result by attempting the simultaneous redirection of many existing programs. We hope that there will be a substantial consensus on the value of such a data base, and that those who stand to benefit will willingly contribute whatever assistance they can. We will certainly endeavor to create a favorable climate for such participation, both through direct solicitation and by an openness to all constructive suggestions.

TRADE LAND

First in a four-part series

by L. Gregory Low

The Conservancy is well known for accepting gifts of ecologically important lands for preservation in their natural state. However, very little is known about the Conservancy's "Trade Land" giving program. Simply, we can accept gifts of property which are *not* environmentally significant, sell the land on the open market, and apply the proceeds toward our general land preservation program.

The trade land property is accepted by the Conservancy only under a rigid set of conditions. First, an independent local expert has to make a specific determination that the land being traded is of little ecological significance and that its preservation is not otherwise important to the local community. Second, the donor of the property must expressly understand before the gift is made that the land may be sold commercially by the Conservancy for its general purposes. Finally, the donation must not be legally or explicitly conditional upon its resale. Therefore, the donor should not specify how the proceeds are to be used since this might be the same as stating that the land *must* be sold, and possibly cause adverse tax ramifications.

A trade land gift can sometimes offer substantial financial benefits to the donor. For example, the donor can (1) reduce income taxes by deducting the full fair market value of the property (if it has been held over six months) as a charitable contribution;* (2) avoid income tax the donor otherwise would have paid on the capital gain resulting from a sale of the property; (3) avoid a real estate broker's commission, which is often 10 percent, on the sale of the property; and (4) reduce estate taxes by removing an otherwise taxable asset from the donor's estate.

The above benefits can best be explained by presenting a sample case: Mr. and Mrs. Jones own a parcel of commercial real estate valued at $50,000. The property was acquired many years ago for $10,000 and thus has appreciated in value by $40,000. The Joneses have other sources of income which place them in the 50 percent Federal income tax bracket.

By donating the property to the Conservancy, the Joneses receive a $25,000 savings in income taxes ($50,000 fair market value X 50 percent tax bracket). They also avoid paying any income taxes on the $40,000 capital gain, as well as a $5,000 broker's commission, had the property been sold instead.

In addition, there is a secondary tax benefit from charitable contributions which is often overlooked. It results from the fact that the property is removed from the donor's taxable estate. Federal government estate taxes can go as high as 77 percent on very large estates, after certain deductions and exclusions have been made. But even for persons with more modest estates, taxes can eat away a healthy part of the property's value. Since there is no limit to the amount which can be donated to the Conservancy (either during one's lifetime or by will), the donations are excluded from the donor's taxable estate.

On a larger perspective, there is a basic financial advantage associated with charitable giving which relates to the fact that the donor obtains *immediate tax savings* from his gift. These "present value dollars" can be put to instant use. On the other hand, if the asset were simply held by the donor, its future value is greatly eroded by income taxes, estate taxes, and by the "opportunity costs" which relate to receiving a given sum of money in the future rather than receiving usable money (i.e., tax savings) today.

If you feel that a trade land donation might be appropriate for you, contact the nearest regional office of the Conservancy. If you desire additional information about the trade land program or any other form of giving, write the National Office for further details.

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*Note: Deductions for charitable contributions of appreciated property are limited to 30 percent of the donor's adjusted gross income. However, there is a five-year carryover allowed for any portion of the gift which exceeds the 30 percent limit. There is also a special provision for a 50 percent limit which can be beneficial in certain situations, *but the full value of the gift is not deductible.*

VOLUNTEER NOTES

NEW KENTUCKY CHAPTER FORMED

The Conservancy is pleased to announce the formation of a new Kentucky Chapter. Chaired by Dr. Bruce Poundstone of Lexington, the group is working on building Conservancy membership in Kentucky, and is fundraising for the acquisition of Boone County Cliffs near Burlington. Other officers of the new chapter are: Dr. William Bryant, Vice Chairman; Mrs. Cathy Wilson, Secretary; and Dr. Hunter Hancock, Treasurer. The Chapter's address is c/o Dr. Bruce Poundstone, 130 Hamilton Park, Lexington, Kentucky 40504.

CHAPTER DEFENDS PRESERVE

In 1974 the Southampton Town Planning Board was asked to approve a subdivision proposal for the Poxabogue Pond area. The South Fork-Shelter Island Chapter (Long Island, New York) realized the significant adverse effect the development would have on the Conservancy's Sagg Swamp Nature Preserve and, with the aid of the Eastern Regional Office staff, took action. John Werger, who was then Chairman of the Chapter, wrote a letter to the Planning Board. Brad Northrup, Eastern Regional Director, testified on behalf of the Conservancy at a public hearing stating that the Conservancy would do everything in its power to protect the environmental integrity of the Sagg Swamp preserve. Subsequent to the public hearing, the Planning Board ruled in favor of the development.

But the Chapter refused to give up. Working jointly with the Group for America's South Fork, Inc., the Conservancy filed suit against the Planning Board in order to delay action on the part of the developer and to "buy time" for the County to purchase the proposed subdivision site. This approach was entirely successful and the County purchased the land for use as open space and park land, thereby blocking development.

Legal fees incurred in the preserve's defense were split evenly between the South Fork-Shelter Island Chapter, the Sagg Swamp Project Committee, and the national office.

The Conservancy acquires natural areas with the commitment to protect them in perpetuity. The South Fork-Shelter Island Chapter is to be commended for its successful action to safeguard the integrity of the Sagg Swamp Nature Preserve.

OHIO CHAPTER DEVELOPS "WATCHDOG PROGRAM"

The Ohio Chapter has developed a "Watchdog Program" to ensure that preserves transferred from the Conservancy to other entities are being used in accordance with deed restrictions and other agreements. The Chapter's volunteer Director of Land Stewardship, Charles Corbeil, asks each volunteer "watchdog" to visit his or her assigned preserve at least once a year and to report on the condition of the property.

CONNECTICUT INITIATES SUMMER INTERN PROGRAM

The Connecticut Chapter initiated a student internship program during the summer of 1975. The experimental program involved students from four universities who conducted research on 11 Conservancy preserves.

The student internship program was conceived with three goals in mind: to encourage the use of Conservancy preserves for biological and ecological study; to promote a working relationship between the Conservancy and Connecticut's universities and colleges; and to develop a means of inventorying the Conservancy's natural areas. The program was funded partly by matching grants from the Conservancy and universities and partly from other sources.

An unusual feature of the program was the degree of guidance and supervision provided. Students worked under professors who acted as research advisors, helping to direct the course of study. In addition, the Chapter hired a coordinator, Arthur Weissman, to keep the program running smoothly and effectively. He was responsible for coordinating the different studies, arranging schedules, and organizing the results of the work.

The ten student interns came from a variety of fields, including geology, botany, ecology, entomology, and chemistry. They worked as an interdisciplinary team, and met at regular two-week intervals to exchange information. Four were graduate or post-graduate students whose work, in some cases, will be used toward a doctoral thesis. Several of the undergraduate student interns planned

to incorporate their summer research in a senior thesis or special project.

The summer intern program proved to be beneficial to the students, the universities, and the Conservancy. The Chapter hopes that the summer program will lead to a permanent, ongoing program of research projects on the Conservancy's Connecticut preserves.

LONG ISLAND SPONSORS EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

The Long Island Chapter has instituted a series of educational programs to promote a proper understanding of nature and to stimulate appropriate preserve use.

An Educational Assistants Workshop, taught by Mrs. Joseph B. Conolly, Jr., is designed to provide the means by which interested parents might learn about Conservancy preserves and then serve as field guides for elementary school classes. The workshops meet six to seven times a year at various sanctuaries throughout the Island. Participants are taught to identify native plants and animals, and learn about teaching aids they might employ in instructing their youngsters.

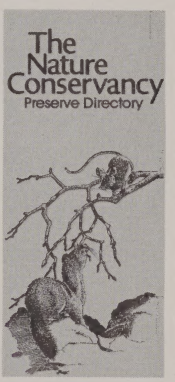
Sponsored jointly by the Chapter and the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, the Summer Nature Study Program for Children and High School Students is designed to meet the needs of young people who want to know more about the out-of-doors. Most of the work is done in the field, using the preserves as laboratories in which to study native plants and animals. The classes, consisting of 20 students each, are taught by high school and junior high school teachers. A total of 350 students ranging in age from 6 to 16 attended the 1975 sessions.

The Chapter's Adult Workshop on The Natural History and Ecology of Long Island is designed to familiarize adults with the natural environment of the Long Island area. The course consists of field trips to ponds, streams, seashore, woodlands, fields and other natural habitats for firsthand study. In addition, there is laboratory work divided between lectures and practical experience. The workshop's instructor is Mr. Otto Heck.

To train high school students as field guides for the Uplands Farm nature area, the Chapter established a Summer Intern Program. Three high school seniors participated this year, and are available at specific prearranged times during the school day to serve as resident field guides for elementary school classes.

The Chapter's Natural History Photography Workshop meets four times a year, paralleling the seasons, on various Conservancy preserves. The course is open to both novices and accomplished amateurs and is taught by four well-qualified photographers.

In April, the Chapter invited teachers to attend the first of several seminars on the availability and use of local natural areas. Representatives from the Conservancy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Nassau County Department of Parks and Recreation, Suffolk County Department of Parks and Recreation, Board of Cooperative Educational Services, Planting Fields Arboretum, Theodore Roosevelt Bird Sanctuary, and the North Shore Science Museum made brief presentations on the availability and use of their respective natural area resources. Over 150 people from the academic community attended. The Chapter prepared instructional guides to a number of its less fragile preserves for distribution at the seminar.



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PHOTOGRAPHS: Bettmann Archive, p. 12; John S. Dunning (World Wildlife Fund), p. 21 top right; Jane Frick, p. 18 top left, p. 19 top and middle, p. 21 bottom right; Michael P. Gadomski, pp. 5, 7, 9, inside back cover; Georgia Pacific, p. 22; Ill. Nature Preserves Comm., pp. 13, 15; Gerald Lieberman, p. 18 right and bottom left; Monte Lloyd, p. 19 bottom; P. Schauenberg (World Wildlife Fund), p. 20; J. P. Schultz (World Wildlife Fund), p. 21 left.

1976 Annual Meeting and Conference

Voted "The Most Livable City in the U.S.," Portland, Oregon, will be the site of the Conservancy's 1976 meeting and conference.

BENSON HOTEL

The Benson in downtown Portland will be our headquarters. The Awards Dinner, Annual Meeting, and Workshops will all be held at the Benson. We will also leave from the Benson for our special field trip Sunday. The hotel has high standards of service and comfort. They also offer a wide range of accommodations beginning with a standard single for $16 and progressing to deluxe accommodations at $38 for a single and $45 for a double.

MAKE RESERVATIONS EARLY

To make sure you have a full choice of size and type of accommodations, please send your reservations no later than April 20, 1976, directly to: Larry Walker, Sales Manager, The Nature Conservancy Conference, Benson, Broadway, Portland, OR 97205.

ALTERNATE ACCOMMODATIONS in and around Portland: write or call for details.

Motels: **Mallory Motor Hotel,** 729 S.W. 15th, Portland. (503) 223-6311. **Corsun Arms,** 806 S.W. King, Portland. (503) 226-6288.

Camping: **Oxbow County Park,** ½ hour east. Minimum facilities. (503) 248-4308, 663-4708. **McIver State Park,** 30 miles toward Mt. Hood. Good facilities. (503) 630-7150. **Champoeg State Park,** 30 miles southwest on Willamette River. Good facilities. (503) 633-8161.

THE CONFERENCE

This year's theme is "New Ideas." Workshops are being planned that will deal with new concepts in a variety of Conservancy land conservation activities.

AWARDS DINNER

Former Oregon Governor Tom McCall, whose concern for environmental quality and planned growth drew national attention to the state, will be our Awards Dinner speaker. Highlight of the evening will be the announcement and presentation of the Oak Leaf Awards.

GOVERNORS' RECEPTION

Mrs. Spencer Biddle has generously invited the Conservancy to hold its Governors' reception at her gracious home in the beautiful Columbia River Gorge.

FIELD TRIPS

Members attending the Conference will be able to visit Cascade Head on the Oregon coast on a day trip May 20. On May 23, Sunday, a field case study is planned for Sandy River, less than an hour from downtown Portland. Members will have a chance to explore, with the help of guides, the 375-acre natural area within the six-mile-long gorge. A special 2 or 3 day post-conference trip to the San Juan Islands of Puget Sound is still in the planning stages. *If you are interested,* please contact Ken Margolis, Northwest Field Office, 1234 N.W. 25th, Portland, Oregon 97210.

TENTATIVE CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

May 20		Trip to Cascade Head
May 21		Self-guided tour of Portland Open house: Northwest Field Office; Volunteer Activities Committee
May 21		Governors' Reception
	Evening	Awards Dinner
May 22	Morning	President's Report Annual Meeting
	Afternoon	Workshops—New Ideas
	Evening	Picnic Supper
May 23		Exploring Sandy River Gorge
May 24 (Limited)		Leave for San Juan Islands

RAFT TRIP

Arrangements have been made for a raft trip down the Sandy River during our visit on May 22. Due to space limitations, the national office will begin accepting reservations for the raft trip immediately. All reservations must be accompanied by a $10 non-refundable deposit to be credited against the participant's conference registration fee. Although everyone will be able to tour the Gorge on foot, the raft trip is strictly first come, first served. The raft trip will be safe; however, the float will be strenuous and is suggested only for those who can swim and are in good physical condition.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Details on all costs and registration forms will be mailed to all members in the early spring.

The salt marshes, pockets of virgin growth, natural flyways of migratory birds, the last retreats of endangered animals . . . let it be.

It takes a lot of effort to leave things alone. The Conservancy spends all its time at it.

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820 Sixteenth Street, Suite 420
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(303) 623-8088

Connecticut Chapter
Science Tower, Box MMM
Wesleyan Station
Middletown, Connecticut 06457
(203) 344-0716

Long Island Chapter
P.O. Box 72
Cold Spring Harbor, New York 11724
(516) 367-3225

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Pond Road, Box 26
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Eastern New York Chapter
P.O. Box 22
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